circumferentially spaced locations along the periphery of the drum and a tube shaped outer surface surrounding the media supply roll, the handling system also including a receiver media feeder for drawing receiver media from said media supply roll along said outer surface. The cutting blade is adapted to cooperate with the cutter notches for cutting receiver media at any one of said cutter notches in accordance with a selected one of plural different sizes of receiver media to be formed as a printed cut sheet. It is respectfully submitted that this combination of features is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. In rejecting many of the claims the Examiner has concatenated a series of unrelated disclosures that do not suggest their own combination but instead employ a hindsight reconstruction of the prior art in view of applicants' specification.

It is noted that Kikamura discloses a printer system wherein receiver media is in the form of a roll supported within an outer drum. However, the receiver media is provided as a roll of preperforated areas and the operator is expected to tear off the printed sheet and place same in a tray 9. With the system of this reference there can be no variability in print sizes as all sheets are likely to be the same size in order to reduce waste. Thus, Kikamura is not pertinent to applicant's invention.

Kenbo is directed to a printer system for advancing receiver media from a roll. The receiver media is perforated along the edges and a transverse scribe line is cut at fixed predetermined locations in the receiver media before the media is moved to a print station. The receiver media in the form of a continuous sheet is then moved to an output station. Thus, this reference also fails to provide for variable size prints since the scribe line by necessity must be placed at equally spaced locations along the receiver media.

Nuita et al. is directed to a printer having a clamping section clamping a leading edge and trailing edge of a sheet. It is noted that this reference is strictly limited to a printer wherein only cut receiver sheets are used and is thus not relevant to a printer system wherein receiver media is provided from a supply roll.

Bickoff et al. is directed to a printer system that includes a retractable blade for cutting receiver media. However the receiver media is being cut not on the drum on which printing occurs but at a location off of the drum. Thus this reference too fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Piatt et al. is directed to a printer system that can use either cut sheets or

continuous sheet receiver media. In the continuous sheet mode, sheets are fed from a supply source external to the printer system and it is not seen at all that this reference is pertinent to applicants' claimed invention.

Watanabe et al. is directed to a cut sheet printer system and thus appears not to be pertinent to applicants' invention.

Clay, Kakutani et al., Drake and Lardent et al. have also been considered but they too fail to disclose the subject matter now being claimed.

Independent claims 14 and 27 as now amended are also submitted to be patentable because they are directed to apparatus and methods for forming prints on different size cut receiver media where the receiver media is provided in roll form within a drum.

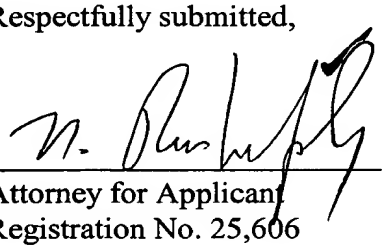
The Examiner is respectfully reminded that it is the Examiner who bears the initial burden, on review of the prior art or any other ground, of presenting a prima facie case of unpatentability. If examination at the initial stage does not produce a prima facie case of unpatentability, then without more the applicant is entitled to grant of the patent, see in this regard In re Oetiker, 24 USPQ 2d 1443-4 (CAFC 1992). The Examiner is also respectfully reminded that the factual inquiry whether to combine references must be thorough and searching. It must be based on objective evidence of record. Furthermore, and case law makes it clear, that the best defense against the sole but powerful attraction of a hindsight-based obviousness analysis is rigorous application of the requirement for a showing of the teaching or motivation to combine prior art references. It is submitted respectfully that the Examiner has failed to show that there has been a rigorous application of this requirement in combining of the references. The Examiner has combined multiple references using applicants' specification as a road map without any indication in the references themselves suggesting their combination. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims for anticipation and obviousness under 35 USC 103 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited. In the event that, contrary to expectations, questions shall remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersign for an interview in order to advance prosecution of the application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned **"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."**

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the Office Action and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made"

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 28 as set forth below:

-- There are two main disadvantages which exist in the prior art printer system, such as those represented by Figure 1. First, excessive waste of the receiver media, or paper 18 results in an [efficient] inefficient printer. Second, ink artifacts tend to appear on the drive rollers due to wet ink. In operation, the prior art printer systems, such as printer system 5, provides for ink to be laid out onto the paper 18, forming an image. The paper 18, which is still wet from the ink application, is then driven through a drive roller set (not shown) in order to meter out the paper 18 or determine where the paper 18 is to be cut. As such, ink is transferred onto the drive rollers, causing ink artifacts. --

Please the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 13 as set forth below:

-- The cutter blade 42 is then adapted to return to its retracted position 42a in order to allow the rotary drum 26 to rotate counter-clockwise. In doing so, the cut paper 18 is pushed out of its original path and onto the path of the stripper/in-feed guide 52 as shown in Figure 4B. As such, the stripper/in-feed guide 52 is configured to cause the cut paper 18 to exit along a paper exit path 54 onto a post-print treatment station 56 (shown in Figure 4B) such as a paper tray, a dryer section or a laminator, for example. The rotary drum 26 is then returned to the paper feed position via rotation in order to proceed with the next cycle of image printing. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 35, 36, 37 and 39.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) A printer system for producing variable sized printed receiver media comprising:

a receiver media handling system for an inkjet printer having an internal receiver media supply roll, the handling system including a rotary drum having a tube-shaped outer surface with a plurality of cutter notches predisposed at predetermined circumferentially spaced locations along the periphery of the drum and the tube shaped outer surface surrounding the media supply roll, the handling system also including a receiver media feeder for drawing receiver media from said media supply roll and along said outer surface;

[a] an inkjet printhead [carriage] for printing images within an image area on said receiver media from the supply roll; [and]

a cutting blade adapted to cooperate with said cutter notches for cutting receiver media at any one of said cutter notches in accordance with a selected one of plural different sizes of receiver media to be formed as a printed cut sheet; and

a post-print [treatment] station adapted to receive said variable sized printed receiver media after the receiver media is cut from the supply roll.

2. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim 1 wherein said receiver media handing system further comprises:

[a rotary drum having a tube-shaped outer surface with a plurality of cutter notches predisposed at predetermined locations;

a receiver media feeder for drawing receiver media from said supply roll and along said outer surface;]

a lead edge clamp incorporated onto said rotary drum for retaining an edge of receiver media from said supply roll at a location about said rotary drum; and

[a retractable cutting blade for cutting receiver media at any one of said cutter notches; and]

motorized means for causing said [rotary drum to first rotate] receiver media to advance in a first direction to advance the receiver media from said supply roll to a printing position and then to advance in an opposite direction to said first direction to advance [retract] said receiver media to a cutting position following printing.

3. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim 2 wherein said rotary drum is adapted to run [counter-clockwise] causing the cut receiver media to unload onto said post-print [treatment] station.

4. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim 2 further comprising at least one [in-feed] drive roller configured to engage onto said tube-shaped outer surface and push said receiver media from said receiver media supply roll to said lead edge clamp.

5. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim 4 wherein said [in-feed] drive roller is configured to retract for printing.

6. The printer system according to Claim [2] 1 further comprising a means including a lead edge clamp incorporated onto said rotary drum for retaining said receiver media from the supply roll in a printing position by tensioning said receiver media from the supply roll between said lead edge clamp and said receiver media supply roll.

8. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim [2] 1 wherein the amounts of receiver media from said supply roll on said outer surface of said rotary drum is constant for all requested print formats.

9. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim [2] 1 further comprising a means for determining the location to cut said receiver media utilizing the image area for [the] a current print job.

10. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim [2] 1 further comprising a stripper/in-feed guide configured to cause said cut receiver media to exit onto [a] the post-print [treatment] station [, such as a paper tray, a dryer section, or a laminator].

11. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim [2] 1 further comprising an outer guide shoe adapted to guide said receiver media from the supply roll toward said lead edge clamp.

12. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim 1 wherein said printhead [carriage] is page-width.

13. (Amended) The printer system according to Claim [2] 1 wherein said printhead [carriage] is [configured] adapted to translate across said rotary drum.

14. (Amended) [For an inkjet] A printer system [having] comprising an internal receiver media supply roll, [and] a printhead for printing images on receiver media from the supply roll, and a receiver media handling system for producing variable sized printed receiver media [comprising], the receiver media handling system including:

a drum having a tube-shaped outer surface with a plurality of cutter notches predisposed at predetermined circumferentially spaced locations on the drum;

a receiver media feeder for drawing receiver media from said supply roll and along said outer surface;

a clamp for retaining an edge of receiver media from said supply roll at a location about said drum; and

a cutting blade for cutting receiver media at any one of said cutter notches in accordance with a size of printed cut receiver media to be produced; and

motorized means for causing said [drum to first rotate] receiver media to move in a first direction from said supply roll to a printing position on said drum and [retract] to move in a second direction opposite said first direction to advance said receiver media to a cutting position following printing, wherein in said cutting position said cutting blade cooperates with one of the cutter notches to cut the printed receiver media from the supply roll to form the printed cut receiver media to be produced.

16. (Amended) The receiver media handling system according to Claim 15 further comprising means for causing said rotary drum to rotate [counter-clockwise] so as to position the cut receiver media to exit.

26. (Amended) The receiver media handling system according to Claim 14 further comprising a stripper/in-feed guide configured to cause said cut receiver media to exit onto a post-print [treatment] station [, such as a paper tray, a dryer section, or a laminator].

27. (Amended) [For an inkjet printer including a rotary drum having a tube-shaped outer surface with a plurality of cutter notches predisposed at predetermined locations, an internal receiver media supply roll, and means for printing images on said receiver media from the supply roll, a] A method of [accommodating flexible] printing to form different sizes of printed cut receiver media [format needs] comprising the steps of:

drawing said receiver media from [said] a supply roll stored within a tube-shaped drum [and] so that the drawn receiver media is moved and supported along [said] an outer surface of the drum;

retaining an edge of said receiver media from said supply roll at a location about said rotary drum;

printing an image on the receiver media that is supported on the outer surface of the drum;

rotating said drum to advance the receiver media to a position where a cutter may [cutting] cut said receiver media at any one of plural predetermined locations on the receiver media in accordance with a cut receiver media size selected [said cutter notches]; [and]

cutting said receiver media to cut said receiver media at the one predetermined location with the receiver media being supported on the outer surface of the drum at the location of forming the cut; and

[causing] removing the cut receiver media [to exit a receiver media path] from the drum.

31. (Amended) The method according to Claim 27 [wherein said retaining step further includes] and including the step of defining an image area on said receiver media for printing.

33. (Amended) The method according to Claim 32 wherein said tensioning step is followed by the step of activating said drum to [speed] rotate.

34. (Amended) The method according to Claim 33 wherein said activating step is followed by the step of translating a printhead [carriage] across said rotary drum for printing images on said receiver media within said image area.

40. (Amended) The method according to Claim [39] 27 wherein [said rotating step is followed by the step of causing a retractable] in said cutting step a cutter blade [to come] comes in contact with said receiver media on said rotary drum by running said cutter blade against [said] a cutter notch [notches] on said outer surface.

41. (Amended) The method according to [Claim 27] 40 wherein said cutting step [is followed by the step of rotating said rotary drum counter-clockwise] includes rotating said rotary drum so that a cutting blade is opposite one of plural selected notches that are formed on the outer surface of the drum and which notches are circumferentially spaced along the outer surface of the drum.

42. (Amended) The method according to Claim 41 wherein in said removing step [of rotating] said rotary drum [counter-clockwise further includes the step of pushing] rotates to advance the cut receiver media [out of its original path and] onto [the] a path of a [stripper/in-feed] stripper guide.

43. (Amended) The method according to Claim 27 wherein after said removing step [of causing said cut receiver media to exit a receiver media path is followed by the step of causing] said rotary drum [to return] returns to a paper feed position for [the] a next print cycle.